

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: SUGAR-WISA MEETING

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1580

1. 33RD ORDINARY GENERAL WEST INDIES SUGAR ASSOCIATION MEETING, HELD HERE DECEMBER 10, REPORTEDLY AGREED TO DEFER FOR TIME BEING OPEN DISCUSSION OF MARKET PRIORITIES ISSUE (U.S. VS. EUROPEAN). SESSION ALSO AGREED TO HOLD FURTHER SESSION IN GEORGETOWN IN EARLY JANUARY (PROBABLY 3RD) TO DECIDE QUESTION OF 1974 U.S. QUOTA ALLOCATIONS AND SHIPPING PROGRAM TO U.S.

2. ACCORDING TO WISA SECRETARY MARKET PRIORITY ISSUE WAS HOTLY DEBATED BETWEEN WISA CHAIRMAN SIR ROBERT KIRKWOOD AND DAVID FLETCHER OF GOJ SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY SUPPORTED TO DEGREE BY SOME REPRESENTATIVES FROM GUYANA WHO WISHED TO ADOPT POLICY OF GIVING PRIORITY TO U.S. MARKET. WISA CHAIRMAN APPARENTLY MANAGED TO CONVINCE FLETCHER AND REST OF THOSE ASSEMBLED THAT ANY OPEN TALK OF MARKET PRIORITIES

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AT THIS TIME COULD IMPART UNFAVORABLY ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC AND CAUSE LOSS OF WHOLE OF EUROPEAN MARKET AND

PARHAPS LEAD TO SMALLER QUOTA FROM U.S. FLETCHER, WHILE DECLARING THAT ANY WISA ACTION MUCH BE CONFINED AT CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 13TH IN GEORGETOWN, APPARENTLY AGREED TO LEAVE PRIORITY ISSUE OUT OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION FOR TIME BEING.

3. EARLY JANUARY WISA MEETING, WHICH WILL TAKE UP QUESTIONS OF 1974 U.S. QUOTA ALLOCATIONS FOR JAMAICA, GUYANA AND TRINIDAD (BARBADOS, ST. KITTS ARE UNLIKELY TO FILL SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF QUOTA) WILL ALSO PRESENT DATA AND ANSWERS TO CARICOM CONVENTION QUESTIONS ON SUGAR INDUSTRY REPORTED REFTEL. FOLLOWING WISA'S JANUARY MEETING, CARICOM SECRETARIAT MEETING JANUARY 6 AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 13TH WILL DISCUSS SUGAR PROBLEMS AND WISA DATA. SPECIAL WISA COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY GUYANA'S TRAVIS ELLIS WILL UNDERTAKE PREPARATIONS FOR JANUARY MEETING.

COMMENT:

MANY WERE SURPRISED THAT MEETING CONCLUDED MAIN BUSINESS AT SINGLE DECEMBER 10 SESSION IN VIEW OF STRONG OPINIONS AIRED BY FLETCHER THAT W.I. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE OVER MANY OF WISA MARKETING FUNCTIONS. WISA CHAIRMAN'S LINE THAT ORGANIZATION'S TRIED AND TESTED LOBBYING EXPERTISE IN WASHINGTON REMAINS TOO VALUABLE AN ASSET TO DISSIPATE BY REGIONAL BICKERING OVER MARKETS MAY HAVE CONVINCED FLETCHER AND SUPPORTERS TO DEFER MARKET PRIORITY ISSUE. DETAILED INFORMATION ON QUOTA ALLOTMENTS AND SHIPPING PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF JANUARY GEORGETOWN MEETINGS.
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